

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01

INR-05 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 NIC-01 /095 W
----- 028028

R 111821Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6761

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 19077

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, GW, IR, UR

SUBJECT: GERMAN/IRANIAN/SOVIET NATURAL GAS PROJECT

REF: BONN 16739

1. TRI-LATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE GERMAN/IRANIAN/
SOVIET NATURAL GAS PROJECT WERE CONDUCTED IN
DUSSELDORF LAST WEEK. THE SOVIETS SENT A 16-MAN
DELEGATION HEADED BY KULIOV AND OSIPOV. THE
IRANIAN DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY MOSSADEGHI. THERE
WERE NO GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GERMAN
DELEGATION.

2. NO CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED IN DUSSELDORF ALTHOUGH
APPARENTLY ALL 3 SIDES MOVED A LITTLE CLOSER ON THE
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CRUCIAL ISSUE OF PRICE. ALTHOUGH OUR ECONOMICS

MINISTRY CONTACT REFUSED TO ESTIMATE WHAT THE END PRICE WAS LIKELY TO BE, HE DID SAY HE EXPECTED IT TO BE A HIGH ONE. THE QUESTION OF TRANSPORTING THE GAS TO GERMANY ALSO REMAINS OPEN. OUR SOURCE SAID THERE APPEARED TO BE A SLIGHT PREFERENCE FOR A DIRECT PIPE LINE BETWEEN IRAN AND GERMANY RATHER THAN A SWAP ARRANGEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS.

3. THESE NEGOTIATIONS FOLLOWED ON THE HEELS OF THE VISIT TO BONN OF IRANIAN MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE ANSARI. DURING THE VISIT ANSARI HAD STATED THAT IRAN WAS NOW PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE FOR DELIVERY OF DOUBLE THE ORIGINAL AMOUNT OF GAS I.E. 26 BILLION CUBIC METERS ANNUALLY. OUR SOURCES NOTE THAT THIS INCREASED OFFER FOLLOWED FROM THE RECENT VISIT OF THE SHAH TO MOSCOW AND THEY SAID THAT IT WAS THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT KOSYGIN HAD SPECIFICALLY PRESSED THE SHAH TO MAKE MORE GAS AVAILABLE FOR TRANSPORT TO EUROPE VIA USSR. RUHRGAS SAID IT WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ADDITIONAL 13 BILLION CUBIC METERS WITH ITS OTHER EUROPEAN PARTNERS BEFORE IT COULD REACT TO THE PROPOSAL.

4. THE NEXT ROUND OF TRILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS IS DUE TO BE HELD IN MOSCOW IN THE SPRING.
HILLENBRAND

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